Flexibilities for Extensions of IRTA or VF

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Subject: Reminder of Flexibilities for Extensions of IRTA & Visiting Fellow Appointments
Importance: High

Good evening,

During the recent Budget Meetings, several PIs have discussed extensions for fellows. This is just to remind you of the current flexibilities and you should include your AO in any plans for any exceptional extensions.

**Extensions for Postbac IRTAs**

- **No approval is needed to extend a second-year postbac for an additional three months beyond their termination date.**
- PIs seeking a third year for a Postbac in their lab should prepare the request package in conjunction with their AO.
- **Lead time for these packages is 4 months to the AO to allow for 3 months lead time to the OITE.**
- Postbacs in their third-year who require a short extension given these unique circumstances should email Dr. Sharon Milgram directly.

**For Predoc IRTA and Visiting Fellows**

- PIs seeking an extension of 6 months or less will not require an interview so we will have more flexibility on the lead time.
- PIs seeking extensions for Pre-Doc IRTAs beyond the 5th year or Pre-VFs beyond the 3rd year for over 6 months should keep in mind that [OIR requests lead time of 6 months](#).
- If you have a Pre-Doc IRTA in their 5th year or a Pre-VF in their 3rd year, please evaluate if an extension is needed and the amount of time needed.
- If you have a Pre-Doc fellow whose current appointment ends in less than 6 months and an extension is needed, please contact your AO immediately.

**For Postdoc IRTA**

- IRTA currently in their 4th to 5th year at NIH may request a 6-month extension past the 5th year without incurring the “no remain or return to NIH for 2 years” condition for entering an exceptional 6th year at NIH. Those requests must be in a memo from the responsible IRP PI, approved by the SD, and sent to Dr. Sharon Milgram who will review, decide and document the decision.
- IRTAs who wish to have a full 6th year must follow existing rules requiring “no remain or return to NIH for 2 years” and these will be processed as they are now.
- These requests can be approved within the DIR by the Acting Scientific Director but these should be submitted within the normal IRTA renewal lead times of 6-8 weeks.
- IRTAs who are already on an exceptional terminal 6th year at NIH may not readily receive a further extension. Requests for truly exceptional situations (such as for a K99 recipient or change in employment start date as a result of the current situation) may be sent in a memo from the IRP-responsible PI and approved by the SD. The memo should be sent to Dr. Sharon Milgram who will consult OIR for a final decision.

**For Postdoc Visiting Fellows**
Flexibilities for Extensions of IRTA or VFs

- Because of individual immigration histories, Visiting Fellows currently in their 4th to 5th year may request a 6-month extension past the 5th year, provided they are eligible for a G7 J1 visa, without incurring the “no remain or return to NIH for 2 years” condition for entering an exceptional 6th year at NIH.
- These extension requests follow the same G7 J1 extension process and have the same document requirements. Please consult with your AO.
- Visiting Fellows who are already on an exceptional terminal 6th year at NIH may not readily receive a further extension. Requests for truly exceptional situations (such as for a K99 recipient) may be sent in a memo from the IRP-responsible PI, approved by the SD, to DIS with other required documents. Please consult with your AO.

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